Some indictments hinted in bombings

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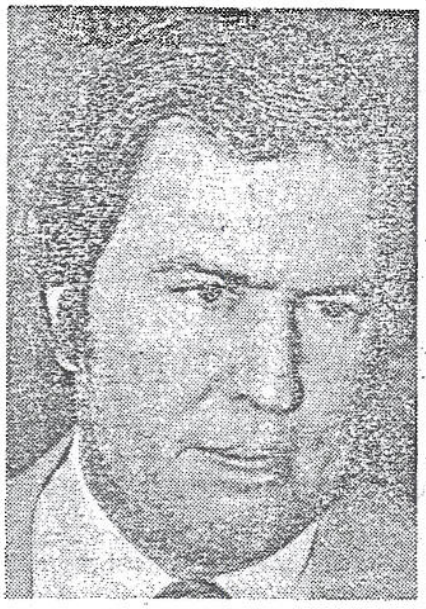
News staff writer

Atty. Gen. Bill Baxley says he thinks some indictments may be returned next week in connection with early 1960s bombing cases being investigated by his office through the Jefferson County Grand Jury.

Among the cases being considered is the bombing of Birmingham's Sixteenth Street Baptist Church which claimed the lives of four young black girls Sept. 15, 1963.

The Jefferson County Grand Jury, which has already heard some testimony in connection with cases, has been called into a special session starting Sept. 26.

Next week will be the last week of the current grand jury which serves three months, and Baxley is saying this grand jury may well indict some people.



BAXLEY

BAXLEY SAID he is still confident that at some time indictments will be returned in the church bombing case.

The bombing cases, the attorney general said, will continue to be investigated by future grand juries.

Former Birmingham FBI informer Gary Thomas Rowe will not be called as a witness next week, Baxley said.

Rowe talked with Baxley in late 1975 and early 1976, Baxley said he was renewing the investigation into the

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church bombing, but he said the investigation had been going long before he talked with Rowe and that he is relying on people other than the controversial Rowe for evidence.

ROWE REPORTEDLY gave Baxley a list of names who Rowe said were involved in the planning and carrying out of the church bombing.

Rowe's lawyer, Franklin Geerdes, of Chula Vista, Calif., has said that Rowe would testify should the church bombing case come to trial.

More than 50 witnesses have been subpoenaed in connection with the grand jury investigation which includes the bombings of the homes of black councilman Arthur Shores and black businessman A.G. Gaston.

"They're (the bombings) all interrelated," a source has said.

THERE WERE about 50 bombings in the Birmingham area in the early 1960s which remain unsolved.

Baxley has blamed the church bombing on the Ku Klux Klan and a number of suspected former Klansmen were called to be interviewed by Deputy Atty. Gen. George Beck before the August grand jury.

That grand jury was marred by several incidents.

On one occasion, Robert Chambliss, 73, of North Birmingham, threatened a *Birmingham News* photographer and later the same day charged at a television cameraman, knocking his camera to the floor.

IN ANOTHER INCIDENT, Hubert Allen Page, 58, of Pelham, was arrested and charged with trying to influence a grand jury witness.

State troopers who had been called to the scene after the Chambliss incident and Jefferson County Sheriff's deputies arrested Page after he allegedly was heard talking with a grand jury witness.

Page posted a $300 bond and was released from custody. He was to appear last Monday before Jefferson County District Judge Jack Montgomery.

But Page, according to court officials, has suffered a heart attack, and his trial is now scheduled for Oct. 3.